

Amendments to the specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 5, line 22 with the following paragraph:

The electromechanical portion 114 of valve assembly 100 includes a frame or case 146 operably attached to housing 112 of hydraulic portion 116. Case 146 is configured to receive a plunger 156 and a rod 180 therein. Plunger 156 is configured having a spring end 152. ~~Rod and rod 180 is are~~ configured having a valve end 150 ~~and a stop end 152~~. Valve end 150 is configured to provide a means for urging ball 128 from a normally closed position to allow fluid to flow from supply port 132 to exhaust ports 144 and control ports 140 via chamber 126. Spring Stop end 152 150 is configured to make contact with a spring 154. As will be discussed in detail below, spring 154 is employed to provide a preload on plunger 156 by providing a biasing force for maintaining the plunger assembly 156 in a first position.